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EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

The Manchester public school system consists of 14 elementary schools, four middle schools and three high schools with a total 2003-04 enrollment of 17,655 students. A comprehensive special education program provides services from pre-school through high school for learning disabled, mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed children, as well as programs for the deaf and non-English speaking students. Renovations to a number of existing school buildings and the construction of a new middle school have been carried out in recent years. During 2003-2006 the City will complete a comprehensive \$105 million construction project to rehabilitate all elementary, middle, and high schools in the Manchester School District and construct additions to all three high schools and two middle schools. The Manchester School of Technology provides training in a variety of vocational skills to high school students from Manchester and two adjacent towns. In addition, Manchester has a complete parochial school system consisting of five elementary schools, one junior high and one high school with a total enrollment of 2,087 students. The Derryfield School, a private co-educational school for grades 6-12, enrolls 378 students.

The public high schools offer comprehensive programs to meet all interests and abilities. Over 50% of the graduates go on to post-secondary education. For the past decade, New Hampshire's students have had one of the highest average SAT scores in the nation among states in which 40% or more of eligible students participate.

The Manchester area has seven colleges and universities, including the University of New Hampshire at Manchester, Southern New Hampshire University, St. Anselm College, and Hesser College. The Center for Training and Business Development at the New Hampshire Community Technical College at Manchester provides workforce training and development to meet the customized training needs of area business and industry. Manchester also has numerous specialized schools and a program of continuing education courses conducted by the School of Lifelong Learning at the University of New Hampshire.

In addition to local educational opportunities, the New Hampshire Technical Institute (Concord), Dartmouth College (Hanover), the University of New Hampshire (Durham), and others are located nearby in the state, and Lowell Technological Institute, Harvard University, Boston University, Northeastern University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and others are located in Massachusetts less than an hour's drive away.

Manchester has among its many cultural assets the largest municipal library and the widest range of visual and performing arts organizations in Northern New England. **Science Enrichment Encounters (SEE)** is an interactive science learning center targeted to young people which seeks to develop an awareness of and interest in all areas of science. The impressive listing of cultural organizations begins with the **Currier Museum of Art**, which houses a nationally-

recognized collection of fine and decorative arts. The Currier also owns and offers public tours of the **Zimmerman House**, designed in 1950 by Frank Lloyd Wright. The **Manchester Historic Association's Millyard Museum** in the Amoskeag Millyard features the history of Manchester and the people who have called it home, from the Native Americans who fished at the Amoskeag Falls to the thousands of employees of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, to current businesses and residents. The **New Hampshire Institute of Art**, a degree-granting institution, offers adult courses in fine and applied arts, and the city hosts an array of art galleries featuring fine art as well as fine crafts. Performing arts are centered around the **Palace Theatre**, a restored turn-of-the-century theatrical landmark. Two orchestras, The New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra and The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra, professional opera productions sponsored by the Opera League of New Hampshire, and a wealth of dramatic and musical events all "play the Palace" each year. In addition, local colleges offer venues for entertainment including national touring company performances, films and lecture series.

A daily paper, **The Union Leader**, and a Sunday paper, **The New Hampshire Sunday News**, are published by the Union Leader Corporation. A weekly paper, the Hippo Press, is also published in Manchester. Four radio stations and an ABC-affiliated television station (WMUR-TV) provide a variety of local and national programs. Cable television service is provided by Comcast Cable Communications.